

1. Content of the Call

The project is addressed to Higher Educational Institutions of Greece (HEIs) for the funding of a visiting professor/visiting researcher for the provision of teaching/research work assigned to them based on the decision of the Department's Assembly, and to companies from Greece or abroad, with the aim of implementing collaborative research projects with the assistance of a visiting professor/visiting researcher.

In order to carry out collaborative projects, the participation of a visiting professor/visiting researcher is necessary, in accordance with the provisions of article 171 of Law 4957/2022.

In particular, visiting professors/visiting researchers may be Greek or foreign scientists, who either hold a professorship at a foreign university or a researcher position at a foreign research organization, or possess at least the qualifications required for election to an Assistant Professor position at a Higher Educational Institution (A.E.I. of the country, or a researcher of grade C in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 18 of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258), provided that both their residence and the exercise of their professional activity in Greece does not exceed twelve (12) months during the period of the last thirty-six (36) months prior to the submission of the application.

The visiting professor/visiting researcher position will be linked to a collaborative research project in cooperation with a company from Greece or abroad. In the framework of the implementation of this collaborative research project, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will issue open calls for experienced academics/researchers to introduce new scientific subjects or approaches to the structure and teaching of curricula or new research fields and objects of the research activity of the Institution.

Funding applications that will be supported under the project are submitted by the country's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in collaboration with businesses, which are invited to invite academic and/or research staff from abroad to provide teaching or research work at the HEI (according to article 171 of Law 4957/2022) and at the same time to implement a collaborative research project with the business.

The collaborative research project will be implemented by the visiting professor/visiting researcher in collaboration with the staff of the company, with resources provided by the university and the company respectively.

The collaborative research project will be implemented on the basis of a Cooperation Agreement between the Higher Educational Institution (HEI), the collaborating company and the visiting professor/visiting researcher.

Collaborative research projects will receive funding through the Recovery and Resilience Fund and private capital, for a period of 1 to 3 years and until 31/12/2025 at the latest.

Financial data of the call

The maximum total budget of the funded project proposals is **EUR 85 223 990,72**.

The co-financed public expenditure available for the inclusion of projects under this Call for Proposals amounts to **EUR 58.142.250,62**, financed by the Recovery and Resilience Fund for the **period 2022-2025 (RRF budget)**.

Accordingly, the total amount of private participation required for the implementation of the projects is **EUR 25.515.663,94**.

National PTE contribution - VAT: EUR 1.566.076,16.

Maximum total budget for the proposal

The maximum budget of the proposal may not exceed **344.581,00 euro** for the total duration of the project, of which:

- Public Expenditure up to 239.581,00 euros through the TAA (105.000,00 euros for the Company and 134.581,00 euros for the IHU) and
- Private Participation up to 105.000,00 euro for the Company

Financial Scheme

The proposed percentage expenditure for the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is 39% of the total budget of the project-proposal and for the Company 61% of the total budget of the project-proposal.

The Higher Educational Institution (HEI) will be funded for the total eligible costs (100%) up to the amount of 134.581,00 euros through the TAO and the Company for 50% of the eligible costs through the TAO (up to 105.000,00 euros), while the remaining 50% is private participation, with a maximum total amount of eligible costs of 210.000,00 euros.

The research projects "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers" between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Enterprises will receive funding through the CDF and through private funds, with a maximum duration of **thirty-two (32) months**, covering the period from the Approval Decision of the project **until 31/12/2025 at the latest**, with a maximum eligible duration of 36 months.

2. The aim of the project

The project aims to create new links between distinguished academic and research staff from abroad and Greek scientists, to promote opportunities and to develop future collaborative research partnerships with private companies. The programme will contribute both to high-level research activities in Greek universities and to the internationalisation of Greek universities, the transfer of know-how from abroad, and the development of new research activities and approaches between universities and businesses.

The key strategic priorities to which the project contributes are:

- Linking research and innovation to entrepreneurship with the ultimate goal of transition to quality, innovative entrepreneurship and increased domestic value added.
- Providing incentives to distinguished academic and/or research staff from universities abroad to carry out innovative collaborative research projects with businesses.
- Strengthening the link between higher education institutions and the market, facilitating the transfer of knowledge to the real economy and stimulating innovation.
- Contribute to the improvement of the international visibility of Greek universities, the attraction of foreign students, the increase of the participation of education in the Greek GDP and the transformation of the Greek economy into an internationally competitive economy of educational services.
- Contributing to the transfer of know-how from abroad, which will enhance and improve the development of human capital and the transfer of knowledge to the real economy in order to stimulate innovation within Greek universities.
- Contribute to the development of collaborative research with businesses and provide incentives for private investment.
- Strengthening links between science and business.
- Increased exploitation of intellectual property rights which will reverse the "brain drain."

3. Project Implementing Agencies

According to the decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs No. 4696/23.11.2021 (ID: Ψ4Δ346ΜΤΛΙ-Χ72), as amended by the decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs No. 200/31-01-2022 (ID: ΨΙΣ446ΜΤΛΙ-Κ3Υ), regarding the identification of implementing and operating bodies of the actions and projects of the Recovery and Resilience Fund, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the competent Implementing Entity (IE) of the project is the ED NSRF ΥΡΑΙΘΗ with the support of the National Authority for Higher Education (NHE).

The ED NSRF ΥΡΑΙΘΗ according to the TOR is responsible for the effective implementation of the projects and the achievement of the Milestones and Objectives, in accordance with the terms of the Approval Decision, the entry of data in the OPA TA, which is necessary for the monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and control of the projects, as well as the supervision of each stage of project implementation.

In addition, it has the obligation to keep electronic and paper records on the physical and financial scope of the projects, in accordance with the standards and procedures of the PPP, providing information requested by the Ministry of Public Works, the Coordination Service and the EU, monitoring the progress of the implementation of the projects, as well as ensuring adequate information and publicity on the projects, in accordance with the Regulation, the Financing Agreement, the Loan Agreement, and the Coordination Office's Publicity Strategy and the ESMA Communication Guide.

4. Terms & Conditions Terms and Conditions

The selection of visiting professors or visiting researchers is made by decision of the Departmental Assembly of the Higher Educational Institution (HEI). The decision of the Department Assembly determines the teaching work assigned to the visiting professor, in accordance with Article 64 of Law 4957/2022, within the framework of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the Department, as well as the type of employment. The visiting professor/visiting researcher may also be assigned exclusively research work within the framework of the department or its individual academic structures.

The salaries of the visiting professor/visiting researcher are covered through the TAA in accordance with K.Y.A. 1955/7/4/2023 (Government Gazette B'2309/10/4/2023) of the Ministers of Finance, Development and Investment and Education and Religious Affairs.

In particular, according to para. 2 of article 171 of Law 4957/2022, the selection of visiting professors or visiting researchers is carried out by decision of the Assembly of the Department of the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) based on selection criteria, which document the high performance and the academic and research profile of the candidates. The decision of the Departmental Assembly on the assignment of teaching assignments, taken before the beginning of each academic semester, determines the teaching assignments to be undertaken in the context of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the Department or, respectively, the research assignments for visiting professors/visiting researchers within the Department or the individual academic structures within it.

The collaborative research project is implemented by the University and the company with the assistance of the visiting professor/visiting researcher and should be related to the teaching/research project assigned to the visiting professor/visiting researcher according to the decision of the Assembly of the Department.

The collaborative research project is agreed between the Higher Education Institution (HEI), the visiting professor or visiting researcher and the Company, before the start of the project. "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers" on the basis of a Cooperation Agreement, signed between them, setting out the specific terms of cooperation.

For the implementation of the collaborative research project, a beneficiary may not be a subcontractor or supplier of another beneficiary.

Please note that there is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted jointly by an HEI and a partner undertaking. However, it should be noted that it is not possible to submit more than one proposal involving the same visiting professor/researcher. In the case of multiple proposals, only the first of the proposals submitted with the participation of the same visiting professor/researcher will be considered, based on the application code and the time of finalisation of the proposal in the MCPF at the stage of submission of the funding application.

Once the project has been approved, the assignment of the entrusted project to a third party by any beneficiary, as well as the claim for aid resulting from this assignment, is prohibited.

Each project partner, enterprise or higher education institution (HEI) will be considered as a final beneficiary of the EAFRD funds upon the adoption of the approval decision to grant aid.

Beneficiaries:

α. Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs): The Special Accounts for Research Funds of the Higher Educational Institutions of the Country, as defined in the provision of Article 3 of Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette A 141), whose academic units (Departments/ Single Department Schools) organize first, second and third cycle programmes.

Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers: Scientists, Greek or foreign, who have one of the following qualities, according to Law 4957/2022 and the KYA 1955/7/4/2023 (Government Gazette B' 2309/10/4/2023) of the Ministers of Finance, Development and Investment and Education and Religious Affairs

- I. hold a professorship at any level at a foreign university or college, or
- II. hold a researcher's position at any level in a foreign research organisation; or
- III. have at least the qualifications required for the election to the position of assistant professor/lecturer in a Higher Educational Institution (HEI) of the country or researcher/researcher of grade C according to par. 2 of article 18 of Law 4310/2014 (Government Gazette A 258), i.e. experience of at least three (3) years in the execution of research projects and the ability to plan the execution of RTD (Research, Technological Development and Innovation) projects, provided that both their residence and the exercise of their professional activity in Greece does not exceed twelve (12) months during the period of the last thirty-six (36) months before the submission of the application.

Visiting professors/visiting researchers may be of any nationality (nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State) or hold a visa for the duration of their participation in the project (for non-EU citizens).

The selection of visiting professors or visiting researchers shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure set out in par. 2 of article 171 of Law 4957/2022.

The employment of visiting teachers funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund is carried out under a private fixed-term (full-time or part-time) or project contract. For visiting professors, the duration of the contract is at least one (1) academic semester with the possibility of renewal or extension up to the completion of five (5) academic semesters, while for visiting researchers the duration of the contract is at least one (1) calendar year with the possibility of renewal or extension for a period not exceeding December 31, 2025. The duration of the contract, as well as the possibility of extension or renewal, shall be determined by the Assembly of the Department of each HEI where each visiting researcher is to be employed. A full-time or part-time visiting professor shall comply with all the obligations set out in paragraph 1. 6 of article 171 of Law 4957/2022.

The renewal or extension of the visiting professor's term of office will be carried out by decision of the Assembly of the Department of the UAS every semester, which defines the teaching work assigned to him/her.

The visiting researcher must comply with the obligations set out in par. 6 of article 18 of Law 4310/2014, as replaced by par. 11 of article 69 of Law 4485/2017 and all those provided for by the above law.

Project Founder/Scientific Officer

By decision of the Senate of the UAS, the Institutional Manager for the project "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers" is appointed, who is responsible for the coordination and supervision of the implementation of the project.

The Institutional Manager, who is assigned the duties of the Scientific Director, must have experience in the supervision and coordination of research projects, while at the same time he/she is responsible for communication with the ED NSRF YPATH. The visiting professor/visiting researcher cannot take on the role of Scientific Director of this project.

The Scientific Officer (ES) is responsible for the proper implementation and certification of the physical object of the project and the feasibility of the expenditure related to the execution of the physical object of the project and monitors its financial object.

The visiting professor/visiting researcher should be aware that he/she is accountable to the Host Institution, the funders, the ED NSRF YPATH as the Implementing Agency in this case, as well as the company participating in the collaborative research project.

β. Businesses: Any unit, regardless of its form and size, that engages in economic activity.

At the time of submission of the application, the Company must be legally operating (with a registered office or branch) in Greece or in another member state of the European Union and have a VAT or VAT number. Enterprises which do not have a registered office or branch in Greece at the time of submission commit themselves to having an establishment or branch (not a new subsidiary) within the Greek territory at the date of payment of the aid.

The project is open to businesses, regardless of their date of establishment, who are willing to provide their facilities and financial support for the entire duration of the project.

The basic conditions for the participation of the potential beneficiary enterprise, at the time of application, are the following:

- Operate as a legal entity, regardless of its type (e.g. SA, LLC, EPE, EU, OE, IKE, JV) or as a sole proprietorship.
- To keep simple or double-entry books (formerly B or C category of the K.B.S.) based on the IAS.
- Not be bankrupt, being wound up or in receivership.
- Not be a firm in difficulty as defined in ANNEX X of this Call for Proposals. By way of derogation, State aid may be granted to undertakings which were not in difficulty on 31/12/2019 but which became in difficulty during the period from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2021.

- not have aid pending recovery following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market.
- Not be spin offs according to the provisions of Law 4864/2021, in which the project leader participates.
- The start of the collaborative research project linked to the undertaking must not have taken place prior to the submission of the application for funding.
- Include in the application for funding any expenditure that has not been funded and has not been included in another programme financed by national or Community funds.
- Commit that the Funding Application has not been submitted for inclusion and, if approved for funding, will not be submitted to another program funded by national or community resources.
- No fines which have acquired final and binding force have been imposed on the company for breaches of labour legislation and in particular for:
"high" or "very high" severity (3 fines/3 checks) - undeclared work (2 fines/2 checks), within a period of two (2) years before the date of submission of the Funding Applications, for the reasons of Art. 40 of Law 4488/2017.
- Undertake to accept any relevant checks to verify the information provided by the competent national or Community authorities and to cross-check it with data from the information systems of public authorities and insurance bodies.

All of the above are prerequisites for eligibility and participation in the project. Failure to meet, or incomplete or non-existent documentation to meet, any one of them is a condition of exclusion of the proposed project.

Businesses are exempt from submitting:

- Against whom a previous **decision of** the European Commission to **recover** unduly or unlawfully paid state aid is **pending**.
- Which are **bankrupt**, being **wound up or in receivership**.
- Which are considered **problematic** as defined in Article 2, point 18, of Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

The definition of a firm in difficulty according to Regulation (EU) 651/2014 is set out in ANNEX X of this Call for firms that have received rescue or restructuring aid. However, firms that have received rescue aid but have repaid the loan and the guarantee agreement has been terminated, as well as firms that have received restructuring aid that has been completed, are potential beneficiaries.

Communication Officer of the Company

A natural person is appointed by the Company as the Company's Contact Person, who is responsible for communication on the part of the Company with the Institutional / Scientific Manager of the project, for the implementation of the collaborative research project related to the visiting professor / visiting researcher.

Collaborative Research Project Agreement between an HEI, a collaborating company and a Visiting Professor/Visiting Researcher

In the context of the collaborative research project, among the documents of Annex IV of this document, a Cooperation Agreement is required, which is drawn up between the Higher Educational Institution (HEI), the collaborating company and the visiting professor/visiting researcher, for the joint implementation of the project and the specific terms of their cooperation.

The Cooperation Agreement, which is approved by decision of the Assembly of the Department of the U.E.I. and ratified by the Management Board of the relevant institution, specifies the scope of the project, the specific terms of cooperation for its implementation, the obligations and rights of each party, including the definition of intellectual property rights on the project.

The ED NSRF YPATH is not involved in the conclusion of this agreement. The cooperation agreement cannot cancel or contradict the Grant Decision and is complementary to it. The cooperation agreement shall be agreed and signed before the start of the project by the legal representative of the HEI, the enterprise and the visiting professor/visiting researcher and shall be submitted together with the other documents provided for in Annex IV.

Issues that should be settled by the above agreement are mainly: the organisation of work between the entities implementing the project, the organisation of the management of the project, the definition of the rights and technical and financial obligations of the participating entities, as well as the management of issues related to Access Rights and Intellectual - Industrial Property Rights (with particular attention to avoid indirect state aid to the participating companies through the universities due to the favourable terms of cooperation), the management of the project and the management of the project. As regards in particular the results of the collaborative research project, the Cooperation Agreement should stipulate that the parties (undertaking and higher education institution) shall jointly bear the results of the project. Otherwise, there will be a wide dissemination of the results for the case of the HEIs on a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis, either through teaching, publications and participation in recognised conferences in accordance with Article 2.1.1 of the European Commission Communication C(2022) 7388 final/19-10-2022 'Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation - R&D&I'.

A model Cooperation Agreement is set out in Annex VIII. The model is indicative and does not imply acceptance by the partnership as such.

The cooperation agreement must be signed by the Legal Representative of each beneficiary of the collaborative research project.

5. Geographical areas of application

The geographical area of the project is the entire Greek territory.

6. Appropriations - Financing

6.1 Eligible expenditure

The project aid is a grant and will be made available under Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, as amended and in force.

Based on the amendment of Reg. (EU) 651/2014, no aid is granted to companies in difficulty. However, by way of derogation, aid may be granted to undertakings which were not in difficulty on 31 December 2019 but which have become so in the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.

The legal framework for the funding of companies is Article 25 of the European Regulation 651/2014 (GER) with an aid intensity of 50% and for research organisations Article 2.1.1 point 20 of the Research Guidelines, with 100% funding [Communication of the European Commission, C(2022) 7388 final/19-10-2022 "Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation - R&D&I"] if the conditions set by them are fulfilled for conducting industrial research.

Eligibility rules

The eligibility rules for the costs of the research projects/actions to be funded under the project should fall within the eligible research and development activities (Article 25 of EU 651/2014) described in the General Exemption Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 651/2014).

In particular, beneficiaries may receive funding under the project for expenditure incurred in one of the following eligible categories of expenditure, corresponding to a period of 36 months:

Table 1: Maximum Eligible Amounts and determination of private participation

Category of expenditure	Maximum Eligible Amount for the IHU (Public Expenditure)	Maximum Subsidized Eligible amount for the undertaking (public expenditure)	Maximum Eligible Amount for the Enterprise (Private Participation)
I. Staff costs Visiting Professor/ Visiting Researcher	112.000,00 €	84.000,00 €	84.000,00 €
II. Expenditure Relocation	3.700,00 €	-	-
III. Expenditure domestic movement	1.700,00 €	-	-
IV. Expenditure participation in conferences	2.700,00 €	-	-
V. Expenditure on instruments & equipment, database subscription costs, etc.	2.500,00 €	12.030,84 €	12.030,84 €

VI. Consumables	3.176,64 €	2.100,00 €	2.100,00 €
VII. Indirect costs	8.804,36 €	6.869,16 €	6.869,16 €
Total	134.581,00 €	105.000,00 €	105.000,00 €

The ceilings are binding per category of expenditure and correspond to a period of 32 months.

For proposals with a shorter duration, the requested budget per category of expenditure is calculated in proportion to the duration of the submitted project.

Indirect costs are foreseen for the LCEs of HEIs and Enterprises at a fixed rate of 7% of the direct eligible costs of categories I. to VI.

I. Staff costs

A. Higher Educational Institution (HEI):

This sub-category includes the cost of employing visiting teachers and visiting researchers, which is charged exclusively to the project budget.

The salaries of visiting professors or visiting researchers of the UAS are covered in the framework of projects financed by the Recovery and Resilience Fund and are not charged to the regular budget of the UAS, in accordance with the provision of par. 4 of article 171 of Law 4957/2022 (A141). The amount of the visiting professor's salary is determined based on the regular salary of a member of the Teaching and Research Staff (D.R.P.) of the respective grade, according to the provisions of articles 128 to 131 of Law 4472/2017 (A74) in conjunction with article 143 of Law No. 4957/2022 and the visiting researcher on the basis of the remuneration of the researcher of the corresponding grade serving in National Research Institutes, in accordance with the provisions of articles 132 to 135 of Law 4472/2017 in combination with article 18 of Law 4310/2014 (A' 258), as currently in force. Especially for visiting professors or visiting researchers who serve in universities or research organizations abroad and there is no clear correspondence between their rank and the rank of a faculty member or researcher according to the applicable national legislation, as well as for visiting professors or visiting researchers who fall under para. c) of article 3, the amount of their salaries shall be determined on the basis of the regular salaries of a member of the faculty or researcher of the grade to which he/she is classified by the Assembly of the Department/University School on the basis of the qualifications he/she possesses at the time of his/her selection, in accordance with the qualifications required for the election of a member of the faculty per grade pursuant to article 143 of Law 4957/2022 or for the election of a researcher pursuant to article 18 of Law 4310/2014.

Visiting teachers who are classified in the part-time category receive thirty-five percent (35%) of the above regular salaries, excluding family allowance, of the corresponding full-time grade with the same years of service, in accordance with the provision of para. 13 of article 130 of Law 4472/2017.

Similarly, visiting researchers employed on a part-time basis shall receive thirty-five percent (35%) of the regular salary, excluding family allowance, of the corresponding grade of researcher with the same years of service.

Visiting professors and visiting researchers may also be employed by the company for the execution of the collaborative research project and may be remunerated additionally by the company for the work they will provide to it, according to the terms of remuneration defined above.

¹⁵The employment of visiting professors is carried out through the Special Accounts for Research Funds (SRAs) of the Universities of Applied Sciences by virtue of a full-time or part-time private fixed-term employment contract or a project contract for a term of at least one (1) academic semester with the possibility of renewal or extension until the completion of five (5) academic semesters and not beyond 31 December 2025.

Accordingly, the employment of visiting researchers is carried out through the Special Research Fund Accounts (SRAs) of the Universities of Applied Sciences under a full-time or part-time private fixed-term employment contract or a project contract of at least one (1) calendar year with the possibility of renewal or extension for a period not exceeding December 31, 2025.

For the visiting professor/visiting researcher the salary level is not affected by the corresponding salary received from the foreign institution/research centre.

B. For the Company, the expenditure relates to the staff working on the research project, namely:

a) to the regular staff of the undertaking employed on the project on a dependent employment relationship (full-time or part-time employment contract of indefinite duration, fixed-term employment contract),

(b) any temporary staff required for the implementation of the project and employed on a full-time or part-time fixed-term contract; and

c) natural persons with a contract for work for hire.

For the contract for hire of work for private companies, the following conditions must be met in aggregate:

- The Contract specifies the specific work to be carried out in relation to a co-funded action/project, the time of its execution and delivery, the total amount of the contractor's fee, the place of execution of the work, and that the work is related to the needs of the co-funded action/project for which it is concluded.
- The natural person shall work under the instructions of the beneficiary and, if otherwise agreed, on the beneficiary's premises and/or at the place of performance of the project, if different. The duration of the contract may coincide with or be shorter than the duration of the co-financed action/project.
- The result of the work belongs to the beneficiary.
- The fee of the natural person is determined on the basis of the time requirements for the completion of the work provided and is not significantly different from that which has

the beneficiary for its staff performing similar tasks or, if it does not have such staff, from those available on the market for similar employment, qualifications and experience. The remuneration of the natural person must be inextricably linked to the stages of implementation of the project. A clause providing for payment of the fee in monthly instalments or any other time limit not linked to the progress of the project is not eligible.

- The scope covers needs of the beneficiary commensurate with the implementation of the project. Employment of the natural person in an activity unrelated to the one described in the Contract shall render the expenditure of the Contract ineligible in its entirety.
- The eligibility of expenditure for each member of the project team depends on the extent to which they are involved in the project.
- It should be noted that the Chairmen of the Boards of Directors, the CEOs and the Managers of the companies are not entitled to remuneration.

II. Relocation costs

This category includes travel expenses to and from abroad, as well as expenses related to the relocation of the visiting professor/visiting researcher from abroad to Greece (e.g. cost of transporting home equipment).

III. Domestic travel expenses

This category includes costs relating to the travel of visiting professors/visiting researchers for the needs of implementing their teaching/research work, either due to the geographical dispersion of the teaching work assigned to them in the individual departments of the host institution, or for reasons relating to field research, in the case of visiting researchers. The above category of expenditure relates exclusively to the LRCs of the HEIs and in particular to the relevant expenditure relating to the travel of the visiting professor/visiting researcher directly linked to the project.

IV. Expenditure on participation in conferences

This category covers all costs related to the participation of visiting professors/visiting researchers in conferences (e.g. registration costs and travel costs for conferences with a speech/communication) incurred as additional overheads and other operating costs (Article 25(3) of the GAC) and directly related to the scope of the project.

The above category of expenditure relates exclusively to the EL.K.E. of the universities.

V. Instrument & equipment costs

This category includes depreciation of instruments and equipment necessary for the execution of the physical object of the project. Equipment as a fixed asset is considered to be any item which, with appropriate use and maintenance, has a useful life of more than one year, retains its original shape and appearance during use, does not lose its identity by incorporation into another or more complex item and is entered, where appropriate, in the fixed asset register. This concerns machinery, its components, scientific instruments and tools, as well as information and communication technology and equipment used to serve the activities of the project.

Eligible expenditure (Article 25(3b) of the GAC) is expenditure to the extent and for as long as it is used for the project. When the instruments and equipment are not used throughout their lifetime for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the duration of the project, calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles and Law 4172/2013 (Articles 22a and 24) and POL 1111/2016, are considered eligible.

For the expenditure on instruments and equipment carried out by public entities or entities of the wider public sector, the procedures provided for by Law 4412/2016, Articles 249-255 of Law 4957/2022, as well as those provided for in the Management and Control System of the Recovery and Resilience Fund (hereinafter "RDF") must be followed. This category also includes expenditure on software and licences for software programs, provided that they are required for the execution of the project.

In particular, the scientific and other equipment, as well as scientific instruments, acquired by the ELCs of the universities and used by the universities for the needs of the project, are depreciated in their entirety, regardless of the amount of their acquisition value, on the date of completion of the research project, in the context of which they have been acquired, according to paragraph 3 of article 256 of Law 4957/2022.

VI. Consumables

This category includes expenditure on materials, consumables, supplies and related products acquired to meet needs directly related to the implementation of the project. For the expenditure of the subcategory incurred by the LRCs of the HEIs, the procedures provided for by Law 4412/2016 and Articles 249 to 251 of Law 4957/2022 as well as those provided for in the SOP of the Recovery and Resilience Fund are required to be followed.

VII. Indirect costs

Includes costs (for the LCEs of universities and enterprises and.) related to the implementation of the project and incurred in direct correlation with the direct costs of the project. Indirect costs are eligible without providing the corresponding supporting documents and are a fixed percentage of 7 % of the eligible direct project costs. The direct costs used as a basis for calculation are those in categories I. to VI. excluding any VAT.

The amount of VAT corresponding to the direct expenditure categories for the HEI is covered through the National Development Programme (NDP).

It is noted that the maximum total budget per project for the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) is 134.581,00 euros, while for the Company the maximum total eligible budget per proposal cannot exceed 210.000,00 euros, including private participation (50%).

6.2 Financing of an investment project - Aid granted

Aid scheme

The project aid is a grant and will be made available under Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on the declaration of certain categories of aid.

as compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation), such as Reg. (EU) 651/2014 as amended and in force, and the Communication from the European Commission, C(2022) 7388 final/19-10-2022 "ERA Framework".

The financing of the implementation of the investment project is covered by public expenditure and private participation. The public expenditure (aid and/or support) is calculated as a percentage of the eligible budget and is granted in the form of a capital grant from the Recovery and Resilience Fund.

For Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), public funding from "Greece 2.0" amounts to 100%.

Private enterprises can be subsidized with a maximum aid intensity of 50% of the total eligible expenditure up to a maximum amount of 105.000,00 euros.

Private participation

The private contribution for enterprises is the difference between the eligible budget and the public aid. 50 % of the eligible costs is a private contribution by the beneficiary, does not contain elements of State aid and may include equity and/or bank loans.

The public expenditure is granted on an accrual basis, i.e. after the investment expenditure has been implemented, paid for and accepted by the competent bodies on the basis of the expenditure deemed eligible.

The loan to be used may be supported by other financial instruments provided that such cumulation does not lead to an overrun of the highest aid intensity or amount applicable to aid under the relevant Article of Reg. (EU) 651/2014.

Please note that the sum of all forms of support should not exceed the total cost of the research project. The public funding of the research project and the part of any co-financed loan, taken together, should not exceed the total cost of the research project. It should be noted that where the financial instrument involves aid, the Gross Grant Equivalent (GGE) of the financial instrument is cumulated with the grant when calculating the threshold set by the Grant Regulations.

The private participation of the beneficiary of the aid (enterprise) is demonstrated by the payment of the project costs and/or by the use of simplified cost options, as specified in this Call for Proposals.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the research project, the possibility of using financial instruments is provided (subject to the cumulation requirements of Art.8 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014, as well as all applicable State aid rules). The financial instruments may also include Recovery and Resilience Fund loans provided that they do not contain State aid elements.

The amount of the loan from the Recovery and Resilience Fund may not exceed the amount of the beneficiary's private contribution.

In any event, the cumulation of aid as a percentage of the eligible budget of the aid application may not exceed 50% as a percentage of aid for all private undertakings irrespective of their legal form.

Cumulus

With regard to the cumulation of aid relating to the projects covered by this Call for Proposals, the provisions of Reg. (EU) 651/2014 (Article 8). Aid for projects under this Call for Proposals may be cumulated with any other State aid, provided that the measures in question relate to different identifiable eligible costs.

Eligible costs supported under this Call for Proposals may be supported under other State aid or de minimis aid, provided that such cumulation does not result in an aid intensity or aid amount exceeding the maximum aid intensity or maximum aid amount applicable to aid under the corresponding Article of Reg. (EU) 651/2014 (Articles 25).

Sound financial management - Fraud prevention

In order to ensure sound financial management, the use of funds must comply with applicable EU and national law. For this reason, the NSRF DG of the MoF takes all necessary measures to ensure the prevention, detection and response to cases of fraud, corruption and conflict of interest included in the description of the relevant mechanism in the National Plan.

Furthermore, the implementation of Greece 2.0 will be subject to effective and efficient controls (Regulation (EU) No 241/2021, Article 22).

7. Timeline

The date of eligibility of expenditure is defined as the day following the date of issue of the Approval Decision for the granting of aid for projects under this Call for proposals for funding from "Greece 2.0".

For the projects to be funded under this Call, the aid has an incentive character and therefore the beneficiaries (HEI and enterprise) must have submitted an application for funding before the start of the work for the implementation of the research project, within the meaning of Article 6 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014. Otherwise, the whole project becomes ineligible for funding.

The final date for the eligibility of project expenditure shall be no later than 31 December 2025. Completion of the works must take place by that date. Applications for funding with a longer implementation period than this will not be accepted.

The duration of the project as defined in the Grant Decision may be extended in terms of duration and eligibility of project expenditure until

completion of thirty-six (36) months, in accordance with the decision of the Council of the European Union on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan "Greece 2.0" and the decision of the ED NSRF ΥΠΑΙΘ.

8. Copy verification

In order to verify the accuracy of the information contained in the copies of documents submitted (either at the submission or at the implementation stage) in paper or electronic form, the ED NSRF ΥΠΑΙΘ carries out a sample check on at least five percent (5%) of the copies submitted by the beneficiaries during the next quarter, requesting the assistance of the services or bodies that issued the originals (in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 11 of Law No. 2690/1999, as replaced by paragraph 2 of article 1 of article 1 of Law 4250/2014).

9. Funding Application Submission and Verification Procedure

9.1 Submit a Funding Application

Funding Applications must be submitted by the Special Account for Research Funding through the State Aid Information System "ΠΣΚΕ" (<https://www.ependyseis.gr/>) with the indication "Visiting Professors/Researchers", in Greek, using the standardised Funding Application Form (indicative model in Annex I).

Funding applications in which not all the mandatory fields have been completed will not be accepted by the system and cannot be submitted.

In the Grant Application Form for the project "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers", as it appears in the PSCE, information and attachments are provided regarding the following:

- I. Details of the Beneficiary Entity
- II. Details of Representatives of Entities (A.E.I. and Business)
- III. Brief Presentation of Project Key Elements
- IV. Organisational structure and management of the project: Description of activities and research interests of participating institutions & available equipment/infrastructure to be used in the project
 - 1) A.E.I.
 - 2) Business
- V. Financial data of the project
- VI. Project Output Indicators - Compliance with National and EU Rules
- VII. Attached Documents

The submission of a Funding Application through the PSCE constitutes a solemn declaration under Article 8 of Law 1599/1986 (Government Gazette A75) regarding the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information contained therein. Therefore, it must be identical in content to the documents requested in the relevant Annex of the Call. Any inaccuracy in the information given in the application form will incur the criminal and administrative penalties provided for. Beneficiaries are responsible for the complete and correct completion of their online application for funding. Correction or amendment or completion of applications, completion of any missing information, even if

supplementary or clarifying information is not possible and not allowed after the completion of the electronic submission of the application in the PSCE.

The withdrawal of the online Application for Funding of the proposed project is allowed "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers", submitted by the Special Account for Research Funds, provided that the cancellation request is submitted before the start of the procedure for checking the completeness and eligibility of the application.

The withdrawal of the Funding Application is submitted electronically through the helpdesk (<http://www.ependyseis.gr/mis>) of the State Aid Information System (SAIS) using the cancellation procedure.

This option automatically leads to the resignation of the interested parties from their submitted application and allows them to resubmit a new funding application until the available funds are exhausted. Please note that upon resubmission of the proposal, it will be given a new order of priority, as in force on the date and time of the new submission.

Please note that messages sent by email and in particular to the email address(es) indicated in the Application for Funding to the ED NSRF YPATH will be considered as notification for the beneficiaries and will entail the start of all legal consequences and deadlines.

The ED NSRF YPAITH collects and processes personal data exclusively and only within the framework of its responsibilities, in order to:

- Comply with its legal obligations,
- To carry out its tasks in the public interest or in the exercise of its public authority (for example: checks and cross-checks during submission, evaluation, monitoring of compliance with beneficiaries' obligations); and
- Communicate appropriately with potential beneficiaries for purposes related to the evaluation of their applications, project implementation, etc.

In all cases, the personal data are submitted to the ED NSRF YPAITH voluntarily by the subjects themselves. Except in cases where they are transmitted to the ED NESPA YPATH by other public services in order to carry out actions falling within its competences.

Therefore, the submission of an application for participation in the project constitutes at the same time an authorization to the ED NSRF YPATH, for the further processing by the competent services of the personal data, which are kept for the above purposes and for the purpose of the project:

- extraction of statistical data and indicators
- conducting surveys and studies to evaluate both the action/project in question and the development of research activity in the country
- publication of absolutely necessary data for the purposes of transparency of co-financed aid and the visibility of co-financed projects
- informing beneficiaries both on the smooth implementation of their projects and on new actions

In any case, the ED NSRF YPAITH ensures compliance with the legislation on personal data based on the General Data Protection Regulation and the relevant National Legislative Framework.

9.2 Receipt of funding applications

In order for the funding application process to be considered successfully completed, the online submission of the Funding Application to the PSCE must be finalised and successfully submitted.

All the necessary supporting documents are detailed and attached in electronic form to the application for funding in the PSCE, as specified in ANNEX I.

The total size of all the supporting documents to be attached to the PSCE must be less than 50 MB in total. In addition, each individual file must be less than 10 MB. For the convenience of the beneficiaries it is possible to attach compressed zip or rar files.

9.3 Completeness-Eligibility Check of Applications

Once the submission of funding applications has been completed, the process of checking the completeness and eligibility of the submitted funding applications follows.

Funding applications submitted electronically and finalised (as defined in Chapter 9.1) during the previous stage are available for confirmation of compliance with the completeness and eligibility requirements by the responsible institution.

The submitted Applications for Funding (project proposals) are checked for completeness and the formal conditions of participation foreseen in the project, according to the exclusion criteria defined.

This check is carried out by the ED NSRF YPAITH in the ΠΣΚΕ, based on the data declared by the potential beneficiary. All relevant material is at the disposal of the ERC NSRF YPATH for the needs of the above procedure.

For the visiting professor/visiting researcher, the verification for the right to submit the application is carried out by the A.E.I. based on article 171 of Law 4957/2022 and on the KYA 1955/7/4/2023 (Government Gazette B'2309/10/4/2023) of the Ministers of Finance, Development and Investment and Education and Religious Affairs.

Completeness and eligibility criteria for the proposed project "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers":

- The correct submission/entry of all the data of the Funding Application.
- The proper completion/compilation and submission of the Funding Application.
- The total budget of the proposal does not exceed the maximum eligible budget per proposal and per beneficiary.
- The total budget per category of expenditure will not exceed the maximum eligible amounts.
- The verification of the amount of private participation, in accordance with Table 1: Maximum Eligible Amounts and determination of private participation.
- The participation of a company on the basis of the GEMI Certificate filed.
- The following supporting documents have been submitted in accordance with the Call for Proposals:
 1. Curriculum vitae of the visiting professor/visiting researcher.

2. A Certificate of Previous Experience showing that the visiting researcher has been carrying out research work abroad for at least two years (2) years in the last three (3) years.
3. Invitation from the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) addressed to the visiting professor/visiting researcher.
4. Decision of the Research Committee on the appointment of the Institutional Manager for the project "Visiting Professors/Visiting Researchers".
5. CV of the Project Communication Manager for the Company.
6. Legal documents of the company depending on the legal form.
7. CEMI certificate of the company.
8. Digitally signed Funding Application.
9. Declaration of Responsibility 1, 2 and 3, as set out in Annex II (Model Declaration of Responsibility).
10. Certificate from the competent tax office or printout of the Installation Data and Activities via the gsis.gr website.
11. Shareholder/company composition (last three (3) closed financial years).
12. Declaration of the legal representative regarding the participation of the company in other companies during the last three (3) closed financial years.
13. Responsible Declaration by each shareholder/partner, regarding the shareholder's/partner's participation in other companies (other than the applicant) during the last three (3) closed financial years.
14. Data for the last three (3) closed fiscal years.
15. In case of affiliated and/or cooperating companies, financial and legal documents.
16. Supporting documents required to assess whether an undertaking is in difficulty (Annex III).

The projects that will be proposed and included in "Greece 2.0" under this project, will follow the terms and procedures for implementation provided for in the Regulation (EU 241/2021) and the Recovery and Resilience Fund's CIP.

Please note that all applications must meet all the requirements of Regulation (EU) 651/2014, as applicable, or the European Commission's Communication C(2022) 7388 final/19-10-2022 "EAC Framework", depending on the category of beneficiary.

Funding Applications are checked independently for completeness, based on the chronological order of their submission, as certified by the date and time of finalisation of the application in the PSCE.

The completeness check of the funding applications is carried out until the available resources are exhausted by the ED NSRF YPAITH, with an appropriate checklist, developed in accordance with the terms of the Call in order to ensure:

- a) the proper completion/compilation and submission of the funding application

b) the correct submission/registration of all data, supporting documents and annexed documents of the Funding Application; and

(c) the duly signed application for funding and Management Statements 1, 2 and 3.

The completeness check of the Funding Applications is carried out under the responsibility of the ED NSRF YPAITH, is immediate and is completed with the publication of the results.

10. Procedure for the adoption of decisions granting aid

10.1 Verification of supporting documents for the adoption of the decision to grant aid

The ED NSRF YPAITH carries out the verification of the fulfilment of the conditions for participation in the project (verification of supporting documents) on the basis of Annex III and prepares for each proposal a Special Form for the verification of supporting documents, where it records the verification of the supporting documents and the fulfilment (or not) of the inclusion conditions. This document shall be attached to the PSCE in the relevant tab of the attachments to the corresponding evaluation action.

In particular, the following shall be checked for each undertaking in accordance with the supporting documents in Annex III:

- If a previous Commission decision to recover unduly or unlawfully paid state aid is pending.
- If the undertaking is in difficulty as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 651/2014. However, State aid may be granted by way of derogation to undertakings which were not in difficulty on 31 December 2019 but which have become so in the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.
- If the company has received rescue or restructuring aid.
- If the project has not been submitted for inclusion and will not be submitted to another programme financed by national or Community funds before the adoption of the Grant Decision/ Decision rejecting the application for funding.

The verification of the supporting documents for approval will be reflected in the PSCE in the relevant evaluation action.

The supporting documents must include the complete set of documents required in the order described in Annex III to this Call for Proposals.

It is stressed that no physical documentation (supporting documents) is submitted during the submission and approval phase of the funding application.

10.2 Adoption of an Authorising Decision to grant aid or a Rejection Decision

The ED NSRF YPAITH prepares a recommendation to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs with the proposals approved, following the examination of the supporting documents of Annex III, and issues the Approval Decision for the granting of aid or the Rejection Decision regarding the final inclusion or rejection of the projects. Inclusion decisions shall be adopted until the available resources are exhausted, by